

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **October 2023**

NEW LAKE REGION BUILDING

A special groundbreaking ceremony was held on the morning of September 5th to officially mark the start of construction for the new Lake Region Electric Cooperative and Lake Region Technology and Communications headquarters office in Hulbert.

“LREC & LRTC have outgrown our current offices. The decision comes in response to the need for additional space. We have multiple employees sharing office spaces and a call center overflowing. Now is the time to make the expansion and add functionality that will benefit the employees with a better work environment and, in return, benefit customer service, in-

person member interactions with the co-op, and fiber tech support. We are also seeing a steady increase in our electric members and fiber internet subscribers. Our current space is inadequate to meet the future needs of our membership,” said John Lee, CEO.

When deciding on locations, Lee stated, “We have a relatively good size property and wanted to ensure our headquarters stayed in Hulbert. The new building will be connected to the old building. It will be located on the corner of Lake Region Rd and 6th Street in Hulbert.”

Due to the rocky terrain in Cherokee County, LREC’s contractors and architects are dealing with excavating the ground and diverting a natural spring that was located under the ground near the construction site.

“I am working with the co-ops’ new building contractors daily and weekly to overcome challenges as they arise, and we hope to have the new building completed in roughly 18 months, by spring 2025. As the new building is completed, we will then transition into an update of the current building to better utilize space and add an electric and fiber dispatch center to serve the members better,” said Lee, CEO.

“Currently we do not have a meeting room to house all our employees, with the new building will have a meeting room for all employee meetings and training. We will have a public area for members and community groups to visit plus tour their co-op. We will also add the ability to demonstrate new technology in both the internet and electric businesses,” added Lee, CEO.

LREC’s management and board of trustees believe the new building will align with Lake Region’s mission and values: providing excellent member service, and continue to provide our members with safe, reliable, and competitive services for today and tomorrow.



See more information on new building at www.lrecok.coop/building

Paradise Cove Marina *On Co-op Lines*

Paradise Cove Marina, family owned and operated since June of 1991, was recently acquired by Blackbeard Marine. Paradise Cove Marina is located inside Sequoyah State Park on the shores of Fort Gibson Lake. Long-time owner Betty Robertson and daughter Ann Davis are happy with the transition and plan to continue working with Blackbeard Marine as part of their management team.

When the family purchased Paradise Cove Marina 32 years ago, it was just a fishing dock, with 20 slips, and a small store. The family-operated business has since grown to 386 slips on the water and 100 dry boat storage spots with an on-site boat mechanic, boat service, boat sales (new and used) and rentals. Betty and her husband started the marina business, living in a houseboat, working 7 a.m.-11 p.m. seven days a week.

“It has been a really good business throughout my life and has been hard work but rewarding. This has been an actual family-run business; I worked with four of my five kids, a stepson, and three grandsons, some of them from the very beginning. Many of my children have since retired or moved on to other jobs, which is one reason I chose to sell the Marina. Over the years, it has been great working with the State Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all the families and customers. We have had customers purchase boats from us, and their children return and purchase boats. Our customers have become family,” said Betty.

“We all worked here together; everyone had their niche. We have always been here to serve the public. My mom always told me don’t figure out how I can’t do it; figure out how I can do it,” said Ann Davis.

Paradise Cove Marina stays open year-round; however, is now gearing down for their fall and winter seasons and starting to winterize boats. Ann mentioned, “We typically do about 200 boat winterizations on site. If you need to winterize your boat, give us a call.”

Blackbeard Marine, is gearing up to bring in more rental boats, new boat model lines, updated technology and computers for slip rental tracking, and more inventory for the marina shop next season.

“Owning a marina for 32 years, I would have thought I would have done more fishing, but now that I am



Ann Davis, Paradise Cove Boat Sales and Management



stepping back from the business. I can enjoy the Lake more, and Blackbeard Marine is a large company that will continue the business successfully and give our long-time customers excellent service,” said Betty.

Paradise Cove Marina in Hulbert is a great get away. Next time you are ready to enjoy the lake, be sure to check out Paradise Cove Marina.

918-869-8371 | www.paradisecovemarina.com

Member Appreciation Cooperative Month

Every October, cooperatives all over the United States celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this celebration is to recognize our members, and the cooperative difference, honor our heritage, and our unique business model.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses, we exist to meet our members' needs and not to make a profit. LREC exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy as well as high-speed internet and home phone to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to serve you the connections that powers your life.

As a cooperative, we follow the 7 cooperative principles:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership** - Anyone can join a co-op, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstance.
- 2. Democratic Member Control** - Adhering to the principle of one member, one vote, our members control LREC by deciding who leads it.
- 3. Member's Economic Participation** - All members invest in LREC. This means members, not shareholders, benefit from LREC's profits.
- 4. Autonomy & Independence** - When making business deals or raising funds, LREC never compromises its autonomy or democratic member control.
- 5. Education, Training & Information** - LREC provides education, training, and information so that you can contribute effectively to the success of LREC.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives** - LREC believes cooperatives working together is the best strategy to empower our members and build a stronger co-op economy.
- 7. Concern for Community** - LREC is community-minded. We seek to contribute to the sustainable development of our community.

As we evolve with our members always in mind, please know that we will continue with the same commitment as always to our founding principles and the communities we serve.

Thank You Members



AFFORDABLE INTERNET FOR EVERY HOME

GET HIGH-SPEED FIBER
INTERNET FOR AS LOW AS \$0/mo.

Lake Region participates in two financial aid programs that provide discounted internet service for eligible low-income households:

Program	Discount
Lifeline	\$34.25/month
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)	up to \$75/month

You could qualify for: 100Mbps for \$0/month!

ACP - sign up at getinternet.gov
Lifeline - sign up at lifelinesupport.org



FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

LakeRegionFiber.com | 918-772-2526

ACP and Lifeline discounts can be combined and are only available for eligible household internet service. Customers must self-verify. The discounted price of \$0.00/month only applies to the residential 100Mbps internet service plan.

Kickstart Home Energy Savings

Ready to make your home more energy efficient and save money on your electric bill? Like every good journey, you'll need a map to guide you. That's exactly what a home energy audit does. LREC offers an independent third-party contractor walk-through energy audit for members. Our energy experts will evaluate your home with efficiency and savings in mind and provide you with the steps you can take to start saving energy. The audit includes an inspection of HVAC systems, insulation, windows, lighting and appliances to determine what actions need to be taken to increase your home's energy efficiency.

Your LREC energy audit may include the following:

Blower door test – Identifies spots in your home where you could be wasting energy due to air leaks. 2508605

Walk through evaluation – Identifies the low and no-cost steps you can take to start shaving those kilowatt hours off your bill.

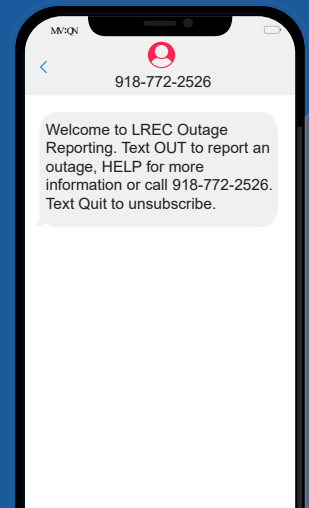
Give us a call today for more details on our residential home energy audit. Juanita Keener, 918-772-6940.



REPORTING OUTAGES JUST GOT EASIER!

Report your power outage by texting us at 918-772-2526

It's essential that LREC has the mobile phone number associated with your account. Please make sure your mobile phone number is on your cooperative's account information by contacting us Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or using our online form: www.lrecok.coop/update-contact-info



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Office Hours

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800-364-LREC or
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Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.